

## **Testimony of U.S. Rep. Mike D. Rogers**

### **H.R. 1612**

Thank you Chairman Benishek and Ranking Member Brownley.

First, I would like to thank you Mr. Chairman and your staff for holding this hearing today. I also want to thank the full committee Chairman, Jeff Miller, for his leadership on behalf of our nation's veterans.

Mr. Chairman, H.R. 1612 will benefit the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), the people of Tuskegee, Alabama and the taxpayer.

In 1922, the board of Tuskegee University voted to donate 300 acres of land to the federal government for a veterans' hospital. Since that time, the Tuskegee VA hospital and Tuskegee University have grown into integral parts of the community and serve important roles for our nation. Now, as the VA refocuses its mission to better serve our veterans, some of the donated land near the University's campus no longer fits the VA's needs.

My bill would transfer 64.5 acres of land at 2400 Hospital Road back to Tuskegee University so that the land can better serve the community. This transfer also creates new opportunities for the VA by reducing substantial overhead and maintenance costs and providing cooperative authority to leverage the strengths of both institutions.

This bill has been scored at no cost to the federal government and is a prudent use of our federal resources. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify Mr. Chairman and appreciate your leadership and strong support for this legislation.